

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the Abstract on page 25 of the Specification with the following amended Abstract:

**ABSTRACT**

Composite wear layers that include a polyethylene terephthalate wear layer adhered to an organic/inorganic (O/I) top coat layer, and surface coverings and surface covering components including the composite wear layers, are disclosed. The organic/inorganic top coat layer is formed from a top coat formulation [[which]] that comprises a coupling agent. ~~The coupling agent is a molecule which that includes an organic polymerizable moiety such as epoxy, acrylate and the like, as well as an inorganic polymerizable moiety such as a silanol. Top coat layers formed from the top coat formulation have both organic and inorganic character. Although not limited to these thickness ranges, the~~ The wear layer is typically in the range of about 1-20 mils thickness, and the top coat layer is typically in the range of 2 microns to 0.5 mils thickness. The composite wear layers can be included in surface coverings or surface covering components, such as floor and wall coverings. An adhesion promoter/binder can be used to better adhere the polyethylene terephthalate wear layer to the organic/inorganic top coat layer.